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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/806,801	04/04/2001	Staffan Folestad	1103326-0659	6014

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WHITE & CASE LLP
PATENT DEPARTMENT
1155 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS
NEW YORK, NY 10036

EXAMINER

JACKSON, ANDRE K

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2856

DATE MAILED: 02/18/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/806,801

Applicant(s)

FOLESTAD ET AL.

Examiner

Andre' K. Jackson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23,25 and 26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23,25 and 26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they fail to show In Figure 9, a loading means "12" and a sample "14" as described in the specification on page 9, line 10. Any structural detail that is essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention should be shown in the drawing. MPEP § 608.02(d). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.
3. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they fail to show in Figure 10 the pre-alignment means "13" as described in the specification on page 9, line 14. Any structural detail that is essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention should be shown in the drawing. MPEP § 608.02(d). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment

of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

4. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

On page 8, line 23 "Fig.4" should be changed to "Fig. 5".

On page 9, line 1 "Fig.4" should be changed to "Fig. 5".

On page 10, line 17 "minimise" should be --minimize--.

On page 11, line 4 "Fig." should be --Figs.--.

On page 11, line 17 "Fig.6" should be changed to "Fig. 7".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

5. Claim 19 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Regarding claim 19 "(16)" should be deleted since there are no other reference numbers in the claims.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

- 1,3-7,
7. Claims ~~4-8~~, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hammond et al.

1st 2/4/03

Regarding claim 1, Hammond et al. disclose "Spectrophotometric analysis" which has a means for feeding one sample through at least one predetermined analyzing position (Column 4, lines 1-11) and a means for temporarily fixing the sample in the analyzing position, where the fixing means comprises a first (8) and a second (12) holding part arranged at the analyzing position and where the holding parts are adapted to move between an open position when the sample is provided for analysis and a closed position when the sample is analyzed.

Regarding claim 3, Hammond et al. disclose where the first and second holding parts do not contact the sample in the open position (Column 12, lines 22-52).

Regarding claim 4, Hammond et al. disclose where the first and second holding parts define a first and second aperture (Figure 1).

Regarding claim 5, Hammond et al. disclose where the first and second apertures together define an effective optical aperture in a closed position (Figure 3).

Regarding claim 6, Hammond et al. disclose where the first and second holding parts each define a first and second compartment, which together define a predetermined volume (Figure 2).

Regarding claim 7, Hammond et al. disclose where the means for feeding samples through the analyzing position comprises one pre-alignment means for receiving and holding a sample during transport of the sample to the analyzing position (Figure 2).

Regarding claim 10, Hammond et al. disclose where the pre-alignment means comprise a spring-loaded arm for embracing the sample (Figure 2).

Regarding claim 11, Hammond et al. disclose where spring-loaded arm and a part of the feeding means are provided with an indentation for receiving the sample (Figure 1).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 2,8,9,12-23,25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hammond et al. in view of Schilling.

Regarding claim 2, it is considered a design choice and well within the purview of the skilled artisan to place the first and second holding parts on opposite sides of the sample when in the closed position.

Regarding claims 8 and 9, Hammond et al. does not disclose where the pre-alignment means comprises an elastically compressible member for flexibly engaging the sample. It is considered a design choice to have an elastically compressible member for flexibly engaging the sample to keep the sample from chipping or breaking.

Regarding claim 12, Hammond et al. does not disclose where the means for feeding samples sequentially through the analyzing position is a rotating feeder wheel comprising at least one pre-alignment means for receiving at least one sample. However, Schilling discloses a "Sorting arrangement" which has a means for feeding samples sequentially through the analyzing position is a rotating feeder wheel comprising at least one pre-alignment means for receiving at least one sample (Figure 1). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Hammond et al. to include a means for feeding samples sequentially through the analyzing position is a rotating feeder wheel comprising at least one pre-alignment means for receiving at least one sample as taught by Schilling since it would make it easier to analyze more samples in a shorter period of time.

Regarding claim 13, Hammond et al. does not disclose where the rotating feeder wheel is connected to a sample receiver, which provides the feeder with samples to be analyzed. However, Schilling discloses where the rotating feeder wheel is connected to a sample receiver, which provides the feeder with samples to be analyzed (Figure 1). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Hammond et al. to include where the rotating feeder wheel is connected to a sample receiver which provides the feeder with samples to be analyzed as taught by Schilling since it would provide an even distribution of tablets.

Regarding claim 14, Hammond et al. does not disclose where the sample receiver is an on-line sample receiver and provides the pre-alignment means with samples. However, Schilling discloses where the sample receiver is an on-line sample receiver and provides the pre-alignment means with samples (Figure 1). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Hammond et al. to include where the sample receiver is an on-line sample receiver and which provides the pre-alignment means with samples as taught by Schilling since this would help to give an accurate measurement for the sample.

Regarding claim 15, Hammond et al. does not disclose where the sample receiver is an at-line sample receiver, which provides the pre-

alignment means with samples. However, Schilling discloses where the sample receiver is an at-line sample receiver, which provides the pre-alignment means with samples. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Hammond et al. to include where the sample receiver is an at-line sample receiver, which provides the pre-alignment means with samples as taught by Schilling since this would aid in having the measurement of the samples more accurate.

Regarding claim 16, Hammond et al. does not disclose where the at-line sample receiver comprise a conical rotating part defining the bottom of an open vessel with cylindrical geometry, where samples fall upon the conical rotating part to be sequentially aligned before entering the pre-alignment means in the feeder wheel. However, Schilling discloses where the at-line sample receiver comprise a conical rotating part defining the bottom of an open vessel with cylindrical geometry, where samples fall upon the conical rotating part to be sequentially aligned before entering the pre-alignment means in the feeder wheel (Figure 1). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Hammond et al. to include where the at-line sample receiver comprise a conical rotating part defining the bottom of an open vessel with cylindrical geometry, where samples fall upon the conical rotating part to be sequentially aligned before entering

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the pre-alignment means in the feeder wheel as taught by Schilling since this would make it easier to sort the tablets.

Regarding claim 18, Hammond et al. discloses a means for temporarily fixing the sample at the analyzing position. What is not disclosed by Hammond et al. is feeding a sample sequentially through the sample presentation apparatus. However, Schilling discloses where feeding a sample sequentially through the sample presentation apparatus (Figure 1). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Hammond et al. to include where feeding a sample sequentially through the sample presentation apparatus as taught by Schilling since this would make it easier for the samples to be placed in the analyzing position. Hammond et al. does not disclose an open position to allow the sample to be transported to an ejection position. However, the invention of Hammond et al. has to have the holding parts open in order to eject the sample to place another one in place.

Regarding claim 19, Hammond discloses where the measurement is performed by irradiating the sample with at least one measuring beam while the sample is temporarily fixed (Figure 2).

Regarding claim 20, Hammond et al. discloses where the measurement is an optical measurement (Abstract).

Regarding claim 21, Hammond et al. discloses where the optical measurement is carried out by means of near-infrared spectrometry (Abstract).

Regarding claim 22, Hammond et al. discloses where the optical measurement is carried out by means of near-infrared spectrometry (Abstract).

Regarding claim 23, it is considered a design choice and well within the purview of the skilled artisan to have the radiation beam a microwave beam.

Regarding claim 25, Hammond et al. does not disclose where the sample receiver is a transport line connected on-line to an instrument which performs a tableting process. However, Schilling discloses where the sample receiver is a transport line connected on-line to an instrument which performs a tableting process (Figure 1). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Hammond et al. to include where the sample receiver is a transport line connected on-line to an instrument which performs a tableting process as taught by Schilling since this would ease in the measuring of the sample.

Regarding claim^{17/}26, Hammond et al. disclose where the dosage is a tablet (Figure 2).


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10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andre' K. Jackson whose telephone number is (703) 305-1522. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 7AM-4PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hezron Williams can be reached on (703) 305-4705. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are N/A for regular communications and N/A for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.

A.J. 
February 8, 2003

HELEN KWOK
PRIMARY EXAMINER
